

Galaxy Youth Centers

- ◆ Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Ave.
- ◆ Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 W. 106th St.
- ◆ Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St.

Located in all three middle schools, Galaxy Youth Centers provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades 6 to 8. The centers are open Monday through Friday from 2:30 - 6 p.m. Activities include music, foosball, Ping-Pong, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-886-8848. ◆

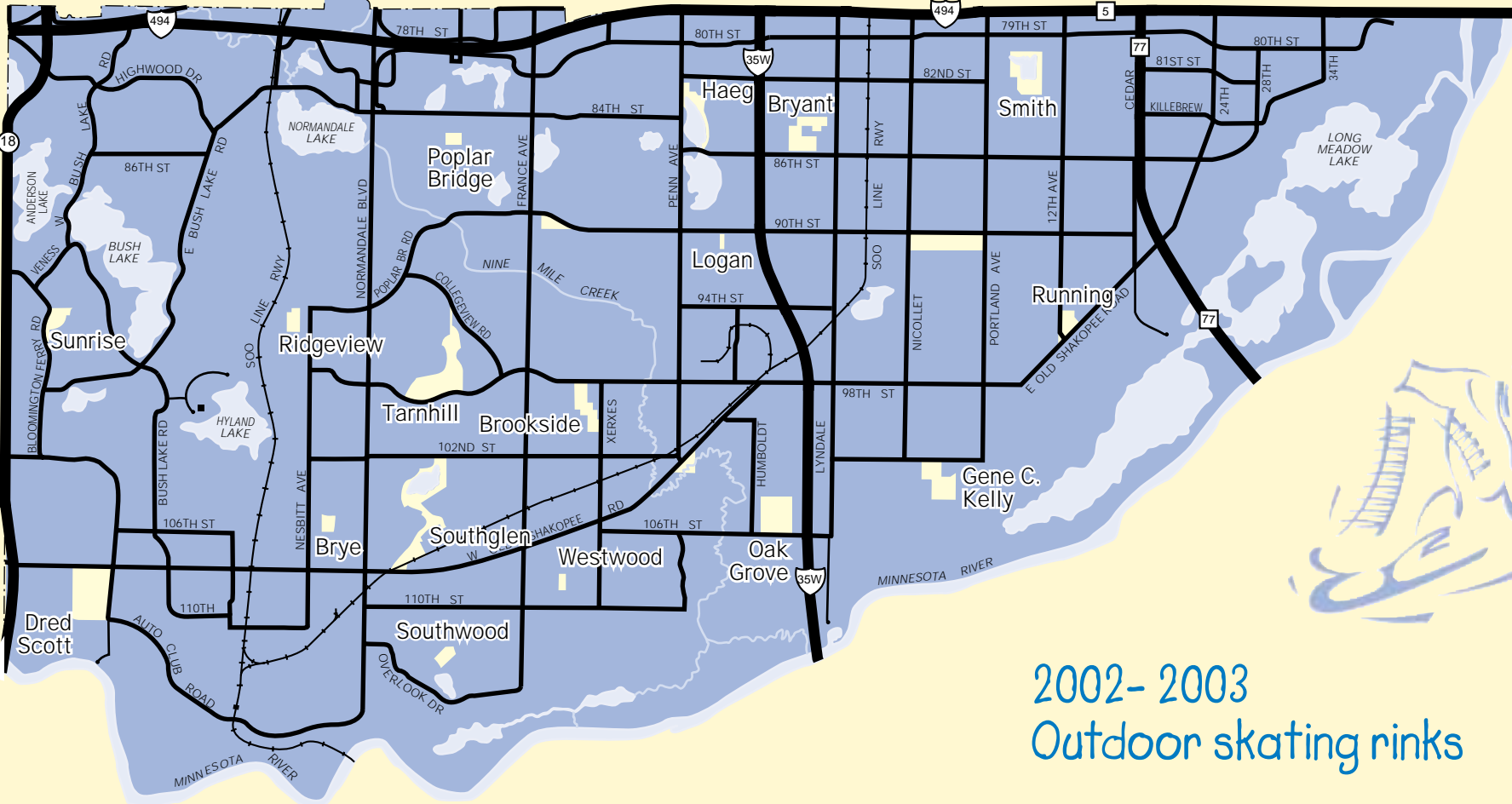
Picnic shelters are great for gatherings

Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. All shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Check out the Frisbee golf course at Moir Park! Reduced rates are available for non-profit Bloomington youth groups. ◆



Proposed* rental rates

Moir Park 104th St. at Morgan Avenue Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. \$170 + tax = \$181.05 Shelter 2: Accommodates 50. \$115 + tax = \$122.48	West Bush Lake Park 94th St. at W. Bush Lake Rd. Shelter 1: Accommodates 240. \$170 + tax = \$181.05 Shelter 2: Accommodates 150. \$115 + tax = \$122.48	East Bush Lake Park 9140 East Bush Lake Road Shelter 3: Accommodates 200. \$224 + tax = \$238.56 *Subject to City Council approval December 2002.
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2002- 2003
Outdoor skating rinks

Parks and Recreation will operate 17 outdoor ice skating sites this winter. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink and a heated park shelter for changing skates and warming up. Each site is supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. Weather permitting, park shelters will open Saturday, December 21, 2002, and close Sunday, February 9, 2003. ◆

Rink shelter hours		
	Regular 1/4/03 - 2/9/03	Holiday 12/21/02 - 1/3/03, 1/20/03
Parks:	Running, Westwood	
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Su	1 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Parks:	Brookside, Bryant, Brye, Haeg, Kelly, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge, Southglen, Southwood, Sunrise	
M - F	4 - 8 p.m.	1 - 8 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
* 12/24/02	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/25/02	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/31/02	All shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m.	
* 1/01/03	Shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m., at Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood.	
* 1/20/03	All shelters open, holiday hours.	

Locations and features						
PARK	ADDRESS	PHONE	RINK			SHELTER
			General	Hockey	Floodlights	Shelter
Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	952-831-9922	•	•	•	•
Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	952-881-9723	•	•	•	•
Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	952-881-9916	•	•	•	•
Gene C. Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	952-881-9931	•	•	•	•
Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.		•	•	•	•
Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.		•	•	•	•
Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	952-831-9935	•	•	•	•
Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	952-881-9775	•	2•	•	•
Southglen	10701 Rich Road		•	•	•	•
Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.		•	•	•	•
Sunrise	9401 Blgtn. Ferry Rd.	952-943-9917	•	•	•	•
Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	952-881-9894	•	2•	•	•
▲ Temporary shelters are heated, with unheated "satellite" restrooms and no running water.						
Dred Scott, Logan, Ridgeview, Smith and Tarnhill have general skating rinks for day use only.						



Tip #2

Here's the scoop!

According to forecasts, there will be plenty of snow this winter. Residents and snowplows alike will be out in full force clearing the white

stuff from sidewalks, driveways and streets. The Minnesota Safety Council, Bloomington Emergency Management and Public Works remind you to be aware of the hazards winter may bring. The following tips can help prevent serious injury or even death.

When shoveling

- ◆ Wear adequate winter clothing while clearing snow to reduce your risk of frostbite and hypothermia.
- ◆ Avoid overexertion. Individuals over the age of 40 or those who are relatively inactive should be especially careful.
- ◆ Avoid shoveling after eating or while smoking.
- ◆ Shovel snow that is fresh and powdery instead of wet and packed-down.
- ◆ Push forward rather than lifting snow out of the way; pick up only small amounts.
- ◆ Never work to the point of exhaustion. Take frequent breaks.

Snowthrower safety

- ◆ Read and understand the operator's manual and familiarize yourself with your machine.
- ◆ Always keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.
- ◆ Never leave a running snowthrower unattended.
- ◆ Walk behind the machine, keeping a firm grip on the handles at all times.

Prevent snowplow crashes

- ◆ Yield to snowplows. They drive slower than posted speeds.
- ◆ Give the plow driver room to work safely and be patient. Follow a safe distance (eight seconds) behind the plow.
- ◆ Stay alert. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than your car.
- ◆ Never drive into a snow cloud. ◆

Plowing through the winter

When the snow begins to fly, Public Works crews face their winter challenge of removing snow from the 340 miles of streets and 512 cul-de-sacs in Bloomington.

Plowing

Weather conditions determine when the City plows. One inch of snow with sleet can make for worse driving conditions than three inches of light, fluffy snow. When three or more inches of snow have accumulated, a Snow Emergency is automatically in effect. See sidebar. A Snow Emergency may also be in effect if weather conditions warrant plowing and sanding.

The all clear

It takes 10 to 12 hours to plow all city streets and cul-de-sacs. During that time, 45 pieces of snow removal equipment are out on the streets. Plowing begins at 3 a.m. on the

main arterial streets and ends by 8 a.m. when the plowing of residential streets commences. Crews assigned to cul-de-sacs routes start plowing at 4 a.m. If the snowfall subsides, plowing is finished between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.



A note on driveways

Although crews do not intentionally plow-in driveways, snow comes off the end of the plow as it passes by. Driveways may also get a small amount of snow later in the day as crews make "cleanup" rounds.

Indoor equipment storage

The construction of 71,000 square feet of indoor equipment storage has made snow removal more efficient. Prior to the new addition, almost two-thirds of Public Works equipment was stored outside. Now that they are no longer battling snow, ice and rain that made preparing equipment difficult, crews can get snowplows out on the street more quickly.

For more information, call the Snow Emergency Hot Line at 952-563-8768. ◆

Snow Emergency

A Snow Emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. No parking is allowed on any street for the next 48 hours or until the street has been plowed curb to curb.

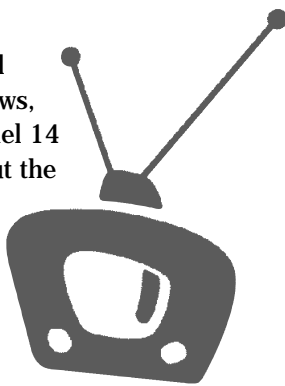


Communications

Bloomington Channel 14

Bringing Bloomington home to you

Tune in to The Bloomington Channel 14 for the latest in Bloomington news, sports and entertainment. Cable channel 14 features a variety of programming about the city. Observe the City Council in action, watch high school sports or catch a profile of a local resident. For a program schedule, visit www.tbc14.org or consult the cable listing in the Bloomington Sun Current. ◆



How can we better serve you online?

We want to hear how we can improve the City's Web site to better meet your needs. What sorts of services would you like available online - registering for Parks and Recreation programs, filing complaints, paying utility bills or ordering pet licenses? What else would make the City's Web site more informative and useful?

Direct your comments and suggestions to:

Diann Kirby, Communications Administrator, 952-563-8818, or dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Visit the City's web site at: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

Bloomington Yesterday

Joseph Dean's log cabin - built 1852



Photo credit: Bloomington Historical Society

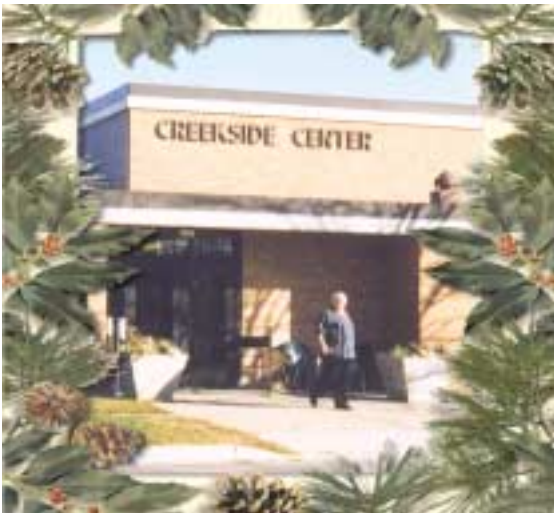
The first frontier homes, such as this dwelling, were usually made of logs. Joseph Dean built his cabin in 1852 on the Minnesota River not far from the old Bloomington Ferry Bridge. Dean and William Chambers came to the area in the winter of 1851 - 52 with a government charter for a ferry. In 1855, Dean sold his share

of the Bloomington Ferry to the Goodrich brothers. He then entered the lumber business in Minneapolis and became wealthy. Meanwhile, the cabin was used as a post office. The Bloomington Ferry Bridge put the ferry out of business in 1889. The cabin was demolished in the early 1900s.◆



Clarification: The photo in the October *Briefing* depicted the Police Department in 1954, not 1953. Thanks to retired Police Officer James Brekken, who appeared in the photo, for bringing this to our attention.

Celebrate the holidays at Creekside



The following events and programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Music to your ears

Celebrate the sounds of the Bloomingtons, Kut-Ups,

Cricket and Renegades at the 2002 Holiday Music Show on Thursday, December 12, at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Unique gift items available

You'll find that special, one-of-a-kind gift at the Creekside Boutique. The gift shop sells handmade items by local residents at reasonable prices. Merchandise includes hand-crocheted and knitted items, quilts, afghans, dolls, doll clothes and furniture, decorations, holiday ornaments and more! Holiday hours are Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.,

Tuesday from 6 - 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **What's cookin'?**

Visit the Creekside Buyer's Club for all of your holiday baking needs. The Buyer's Club carries nuts, dried fruits, coconut, granola, oatmeal, bran, wild rice, honey, pure maple syrup and more. The Buyer's Club is open on Thursdays from 9 - 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.

New Year's resolution: Visit Creekside

Start off the new year at a "Get Acquainted with Creekside" gathering. This is a great way to learn about the many programs, activities and opportunities offered for seniors. Meetings are Wednesdays, January 8 and February 5 from 10 - 11 a.m. Come join the fun!

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

Bloomington Human Services introduces another exciting season of Life is Like a Valued Patchwork. The monthly program offers learning opportunities and a continental breakfast.

Wednesday, December 18
Health Club for the Mind

Join Steve Benson from the University of Minnesota's Elder Learning Institute and Susan Hamerski from Elderhostel to learn how to get involved and keep your mind healthy and fit. The all-volunteer Elder Learning Institute offers 135 courses, activities and trips each year throughout the metro area. Elderhostel is a residential learning program that provides unique learning experiences all over the world. Both dynamic organizations cater to active learners of retirement age.

Wednesday,
January 22
Creating Memory Albums

Are you finally ready to organize those boxes and boxes of old photos? Rebecca Smithwick can help. Learn how to safely store photographs and create family storybooks.

Programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3, payable at the door. To register, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948.

Local business awarded Human Rights honor



Seagate Technology's Diversity Action Council (DAC) was honored with the 2002 Omar Bonderud Award for providing cultural awareness and education in their work environment. The Bloomington Human Rights Commission presented the award to the DAC at this month's City Council meeting.

Cultural understanding

The slogan *We Are Many... We Are One* accurately describes the work on behalf of human rights at Seagate.

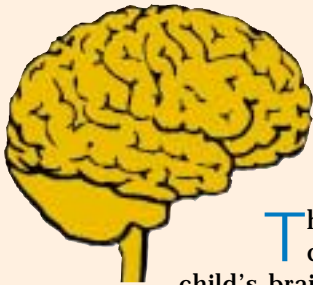
Employees of different backgrounds, religions and cultures make up the DAC that raises cultural understanding through special events. These celebrations encourage Seagate employees to accept other cultures and promote dialogue between them. Some events include: Asian New Year, Black History Month, Cinco de Mayo, Disability Awareness Month, Native American Celebration, Irish Heritage Celebration and the Festival of Nations.

Respecting differences

Diversity training and workshops are another priority for the DAC. Member Bob Peters states, "We will continue to help build an environment in which diversity is valued, people are encouraged to accept other cultures, differences are respected and human rights are considered in all areas."

Award history

The Omar Bonderud Award is presented by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to ensuring the rights of people in the community. Omar Bonderud was the first chair of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, which was formed in 1968. For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740 or visit the City of Bloomington's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.



Alcohol and the adolescent brain

The first few years of life are crucial in the development of a child's brain. Scientists have now discovered that there is a second growth spurt that occurs around puberty, when the brain "fine-tunes" itself.

As developmental changes occur in an adolescent, his/her brain becomes particularly vulnerable to alcohol. When an adolescent consumes alcohol, it permeates the brain and impedes judgment much like in an adult brain. However, in a teenager's brain there could be much longer lasting impacts as alcohol interferes with the development process that is taking place.

Be responsible

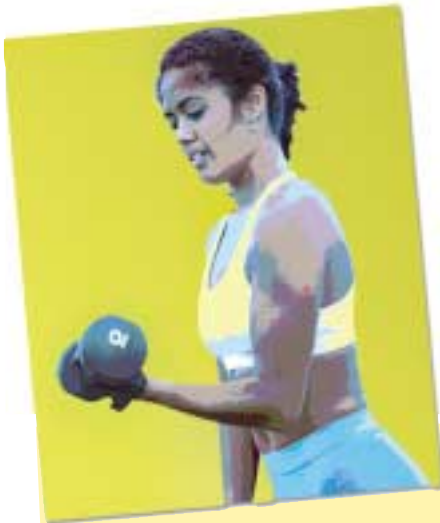
Allowing adolescents to consume alcohol in your home does not keep them "safe." Remember:

◆ **You're putting youth at risk.** The teenage brain reacts differently to alcohol than an adult brain. Consuming alcohol can affect an adolescent's behavior now and his or her mental capacity later in life.

◆ **It's illegal.** Two laws hold an adult civilly and criminally liable for damages caused by a youth if they consume alcohol in the adult's home and injure themselves or others.

Healthy youth

Bloomington Public Health and Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities work to keep youth healthy and safe. We sponsor Parent Empowerment Workshops that include youth and alcohol, the media, tobacco and other topics. For more information, call Drew Brooks at 952-563-8984 or e-mail dbrooks@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



Tip #3

Stay healthy this holiday season!

Chances are in the next few weeks you will be faced with some hard choices: Should I take that last slice of pie? How about one more handful of Aunt Betty's holiday cookies? When faced with these decisions, remember: Most people only gain about one to two pounds during the holiday season, so don't stress out. However, if the offer is "one more drink for the road," the choice is not hard. Your response should be "no."

Bloomington Public Health offers more tips to keep you healthy this holiday season:

◆ **Get a flu shot.** Although a shot cannot give 100 percent protection, your symptoms will be less if you do get the flu.

◆ **Keep exercising.** Try for 30-60 minutes a day. It's a great stress reliever, and can help wear off that last slice of pie.

◆ **Drink lots of water.** Eight eight-ounce glasses helps your body digest food, convert food to energy and can even help you from overeating.

◆ **Sleep.** Getting enough sleep is just as important as eating right and exercising.

◆ **Say "no."** You don't have to attend every event.

◆ **Stick to your budget.** Giving gifts is a great way to show others you appreciate them, but going into debt isn't.

◆ **Be thankful** for your health, family, home, job, etc.

◆ **Tell others you love them.** After all, 'tis the season.

◆ **Eat well.** Don't forget those fruits and vegetables.

◆ **Enjoy the season.** Just follow all the above.

Do something constructive with your home

Home Improvement Deferred Loan applications are now being accepted by the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

Loans of up to \$25,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple five percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

All homes built before 1978 will be required to have a Lead Risk Assessment. All lead-contaminated surfaces must be addressed as part of the Home Improvement Loan Project.

Since 1975, the HRA has loaned more than \$5.5 million to homeowners in an effort to

help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city.

Eligible repairs

- ◆ Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
- ◆ Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
- ◆ Exterior painting.
- ◆ Foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

Ineligible repairs

- ◆ Decorating.
- ◆ Additions.
- ◆ Finishing of basements.
- ◆ Remodeling.
- ◆ Garage constructions.
- ◆ Homeowner labor will no longer be permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

Application guidelines

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equi-

ty in your home to cover the amount of the loan. Income guidelines apply. See *table*.

Persons in household	Maximum gross income
1	\$38,100
2	\$43,500
3	\$48,950
4	\$54,400
5	\$58,750
6	\$63,100
7	\$67,450
8 or more	\$71,800

Deadline

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in City Hall, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, until March 21. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937. ◆

It's a dog's life

Located on 111th Street and Nesbitt Avenue, the off-leash recreation area has been a very successful venue for fun and exercise for dogs and handlers alike. If you haven't visited this area, come see for yourself how much fun it can be. Dogs must be licensed, healthy and non-aggressive. Bring your walking shoes! Please remember your dog needs to be under your control at all times. Call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 for information. ◆



Tip #4

Prevent fires in your home!

In 2001, home fires killed 3,110 Americans and injured 15,575 more. While cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States, electrical problems and the use of supplemental room heaters are other major causes. Reduce the likelihood of a fire in your home by following these safety tips.

Clues to electrical problems

- ◆ Flickering lights when you turn on an appliance means the circuit is overloaded or has a loose connection.
- ◆ If sparks appear when you insert or remove a plug, it could be a loose connection.
- ◆ A warm electrical cord is underrated or defective.
- ◆ Continually blown fuses or a circuit breaker that keeps tripping are important warning signs.
- ◆ Frequent bulb burnout signals the bulb is too high a wattage for the fixture.

Wood stoves, fireplaces and space heaters

- ◆ Proper installation, maintenance and use of supplemental heating appliances can prevent fires.
- ◆ Wood stoves should sit on non-combustible surfaces or floor protectors. Place space heaters on a firm surface so they won't tip over.
- ◆ Install vents and chimneys with proper clearances from combustible materials.
- ◆ Use fuels appropriate for the appliance. Gas or other flammable liquids should never be used to start a wood fire.
- ◆ Do not leave fireplaces or space heaters unattended.
- ◆ Chimneys and vents should be inspected and cleaned annually by a professional chimney sweep. Creosote, a product of wood stoves and fireplaces, builds up in connectors and flues and can cause fires. ◆



Spring 2003 Curbside Clean-up

Future dates		2003
Location	Regular trash day is:	Curbside pickup is SATURDAY:
West of Normandale	Friday	April 26
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 3
Penn to France	Wednesday	May 17
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	June 7
East of Portland	Monday	June 14



A chocolate lover's dream-come-true

Restaurants and eateries put their best chocolate forward at the eighth annual Taste of Chocolate Festival. Attendees are invited to take the "chocolate taste challenge" as chefs compete for culinary honors. Entertainment, a silent auction and prize drawings will also be featured.

- When:** Sunday, February 2.
Time: 2 - 4:30 p.m.
Where: Radisson South Hotel, 7800 Normandale Boulevard.
Tickets: \$20; \$30 includes Mayor's reception from 1 - 2 p.m. For more information, call 612-978-1542. ◆



Tip #5

Practice food safety this holiday season!

Environmental Health presents these tips to safely handle and prepare food for your holiday parties and gatherings.

Shopping

- ◆ Make grocery shopping your last errand.
- ◆ Put meat, poultry, dairy and frozen products in the cart last, right before checkout.
- ◆ To guard against cross-contamination, put raw meat that may drip juices on other foods into plastic bags.
- ◆ Store foods right away.

Preparation

- ◆ Wash your hands thoroughly and often especially after eating, smoking, handling raw meats or changing diapers.
- ◆ Clean cutting boards with warm soapy water and sanitize after every use. See sidebar.
- ◆ Thaw foods in the refrigerator.
- ◆ Marinate foods in non-metallic pans in the refrigerator.
- ◆ Use a different knife and cutting board for cutting raw meats and preparing vegetables, cheeses, breads and other ready-to-eat foods.
- ◆ Keep pets out of the kitchen.

Serving

- ◆ Never leave food out more than two hours. Bacteria that can cause food-borne illness grow rapidly at room temperature.
- ◆ Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. When serving a buffet, keep hot food over a heat source and cold food on ice.
- ◆ Refrigerate platters of food until it is time to serve or keep food at 140 degrees or higher.

Leftovers

- ◆ Package leftovers into small serving sizes and put directly in the refrigerator or freezer. Use cooked leftovers within four days.
- ◆ Cut turkey off the bone and refrigerate. ◆

Do-it-yourself sanitizer

It is important to sanitize all food contact surfaces and utensils after cutting raw meats. A sanitizer solution can be made by using 1-2 capfuls of bleach per 1 gallon of water. ◆